

DIVISION: FORMS 1 - 4AGE GROUP: 12 years plusSERIES: CURRENT AFFAIRS:PROGRAMME (8): FOREIGN AID TO B.G.RECORDING TIME:TRANSMISSION: Wednesday, March 18, 1965 (2.46 - 2.58 p.m.)

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

There is a phrase that you must be hearing a lot of nowadays. It's this phrase "Foreign Aid". You hear it on the radio, ^{and} you come across it in the newspapers, if you read them, and I hope you do. Often too, you hear grown-ups saying what this country needs is a good dose of foreign aid.

Well what is this thing called Foreign Aid? That is not too difficult to answer. What it really means is that one country or a big organisation decides to lend money or to give money to a poor country. That is putting it in the very simplest way - but we'll see that it's a bit more complicated than that. But before we go into ^{describing} ~~discussing~~ foreign aid, let's ask ourselves ^{some} why do countries give aid to other countries.

~~First~~ Wouldn't it be better if they kept the money for themselves? Well first of all the world is a much smaller place now than it was sixty years ago. I don't mean that ~~year~~ the earth has shrunk in size. What I mean is that radios, ~~air~~ ^{air} places, good roads, fast ships, rockets, and bombs, have made it possible for people from countries quite far apart to reach one another and sometimes

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hurt one another. So nowadays, Japan, say, is a neighbour of Britain, and China is a neighbour of the West Indies. And what happens in one country is bound to have some effect on many others. So all countries are looking at one another - studying one another closely, and countries become very worried when things go wrong next door.

Now poverty is one of the things that causes a lot of trouble nowadays. And so many rich countries are willing to help poor countries to ease their poverty. But let's look at it another way. Up to about forty years ago there were millions of poor people in the world who took poverty as something they could never change. It was just their luck, they felt. Today hardly anybody looks at poverty that way. There has been an amazing change. Some people call it a revolution. They say it's a revolution of rising expectations - big words I know, but they mean this. People all over the world expect to get more out of life now than their fathers or grandfathers did. Radios and newspapers and television and the cinema are showing them and telling them each day how well ^{in the countries} off people of Europe and the North America are. And people from poorer countries compare what they have with what the people in the richer countries have. Naturally they want the same thing, and their leaders - their politicians - turn to the richer countries and say - Look, you have so much that you can help us to improve our standard of living. Lend us or give us some money so that we can help our people. Some of these poorer countries were once ruled by the richer ones, like France, Britain and Holland - and they

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expect those ^{rich} countries to give them a lot of help, because they say those rich countries became rich by having empires.

And the rich countries, what about them? Well they know that there is a big gap between the rich and the poor countries. They know too that if the gap gets wider there will be very bad feelings between the two groups - the haves and the have-nots, as we call them. And this bad feeling can be dangerous in a world which has become so small. But there are many people in the richer countries too who feel it's their duty to help poorer countries to stand on their own feet. They say that the world will be a healthier place to live in, when the very poor countries have ceased to be poor. And so help comes from those rich countries to the poorer ones.

And there is one last thing but it's very important. You'll remember the other day when we were talking about Vietnam, we said that the communist countries like Russia and China were in keen competition with Non-communist countries like America and Britian. Each side is trying to win other countries and more countries to its banner. And ^{to} do this they offer help to poorer countries. Some countries get help from both sides so they profit from the competition. We can say then that the competition between these big countries is actually helping the poorer countries. And a country which seems to be enjoying this competition a lot is Egypt. You see Egypt has been

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receiving help from both sides.

You'll remember we said that foreign aid is often given in the form of money. But it can be given in other ways, for instance in the form of people coming to help. Let me explain this. Suppose as we know Guiana needs teachers. Well a richer country like Canada can send a number of teachers to Guiana to help in our schools. And the Canadian Government might pay their salaries. Then Guiana will have ^{more} money to pay the salaries of ^{their own teachers} other people. Or experts might come from a rich country and give very good advice on how we can deal with some of our problems. In fact this happens quite a lot.

Now if you look~~d~~ in the newspapers this morning or listened to the radio last night then you would know that the United States has given 2.6 million dollars to help us rebuild our airport building at Atkinson Field. This is good news because we're all ashamed of the little old building we use now. And again money from the United States is going to come to help us rebuild the roads along our coast. The money will pay for machinery, experts and also the wages of workers. It will mean that our cars, lorries, and buses will have better roads to run on and hundreds of Guianese will get jobs. And it will be a good thing of course if we get more aid in this form. By the way I should let you know that the aid ^{were} ~~you're~~ receiving from the American government so far is in the form of grants not loans. Do you know what this means? Of course you do. It means that we're

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